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such friends as he accidentally met, he returned home to dinner, and generally spent his evenings, while his sons practised drawing under his superintendance, at the same table, in writing literary works, which have deservedly procured him celebrity, and placed him high in the ranks of polite literature.

In Ireland we require to be called off from the pleasures of the table, to an abridgment of the hours spent over the bottle. The present fashionable hours of dining are calculated to promote too great indulgence in this point, and to induce an opinion that after the labours of the long day are over, a social indulgence is allowable. How much better, and more in the spirit of philosophy would it be to spend those hours of relaxation in social intercourse among our friends, without the aid of the bottle, or in the domestic familiar intercourse of the family circle, in that kind of study, to which occasional conversation affords no material interruption. In every plan of enjoyment it is of advantage to include an idea of the domestic circle, rather than to seek for satisfaction in an insulated state. By such a plan the members of a family are bound up together; the young are trained to look for enjoyment under the sheltering and protecting wing of parental vigilance. In what better manner can the hours of relaxation from business be passed? In forming the minds of youth, the right employment of their leisure hours, is of the highest importance, and parents should especially contribute their share to assist in the formation of right habits, if the young people manifest a tractable disposition, and a docility to be led into those habits, which will ultimately contribute most essentially to their own happiness.

K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE MARRIED DEMONESS,

Continued from Vol. IV p. 425.

NATHAN at these words recovered himself, and drew from them great hopes of a lasting happiness.

He had scarcely departed from the palace when he met Asmodeus, with a drawn sword in his hand, who cried out to him a distance as far off as he could see him. "Why have you done what I forbad you? You shall now by no means escape me, and the time is come when you shall pay for all your crimes."

Patience! says Nathan to him, I did not enter your palace but through the power of the love, which I have for your daughter; I beseech you give her to me, you will thus make me the happiest of men, as your refusal will render me the most miserable. Asmodeus was much rejoiced at this excuse, and said to Nathan, I consent to your request, and I give you my daughter very willingly; but defer the ceremonies of your marriage, until I have returned from the campaign to which the interest of my state calls me. You may however in the mean time, enter the palace of my daughter with full liberty, converse with her, and pass your time very agreeably.

After granting this permission, Asmodeus returned to his army, attacked the hostile city, took it by assault, and razed it to the ground. He then spoke to his troops, and invited them to come and refresh themselves in his capital, and participate in his joy; you will be all welcome, said he, and you will see the nuptials of my daughter, whom I gave to the man who is the most learned of the whole world in all the laws divine and human. They all accepted his invitation, and immediately set themselves to collect all the game and venison which the forests contained to increase the magnificence of these nuptials. And they brought with them an infinity of wild fowl and animals of the forest.

The day of the marriage being come, Asmodeus gave such great riches to his son in law, that they surpassed imagination. He at the same time had the marriage contract drawn out and caused it to be signed by all the great lords of his empire after the married couple. He gave a public festival, the most splendid, that can be conceived; and in the evening he delivered his daughter into

the hands of Nathan, according to the custom of all nations.

They had no sooner entered into the nuptial chamber, than the bride Mitra said to her spouse Nathan, you have perhaps hitherto believed, that I was a sorceress, or a demoness, but know that I am of the human race, as you are; but beware of even touching me, if you have not a true love for me. He answered her, with the greatest respect and transport, that he loved her more than the sight of his eyes, and that he would prefer death rather than abandon her. I shall believe you said she if you will confirm your words by an oath. Nathan made no difficulty of this, and swore it solemnly to her, and besides did not content himself with words, but put it in writing, signed it, and gave it her to keep, as a proof of the eternity of his faith. They lived after this as husband and wife in all the delights of a happy wedlock, which at last gave birth to a son, who according to the law of Moses was circumcised on the eighth day, and was named Solomon in memory of the wise king the son of David.

After having lived some years in perfect unity, Mitra perceived that Nathan, playing one day with his little son Solomon, whom he held on his knees, sighed several times: she enquired of him the reason. Alas! said he, I will tell you the truth; I sighed in thinking on my son and my wife, whom I have left in my native country. Well, said Mitra, what do you want? do you not find me sufficiently beautiful? Do you wish for more riches and honours than you have? Tell me freely and you shall see what care I will take to give you satisfaction. It is true said the husband, that I want for nothing and that your bounty has exceeded my hopes, but when I look on our son Solomon, I cannot prevent myself from sighing, in thinking of my other children. Did I not inform you, said Mitra, that you should not marry me if you could not give me your whole heart and if you did not love me sincerely. You will soon complain of regret for your other wife, and her absence will make you sigh likewise. Take care this does not happen, for I should feel myself highly offended. Poor Nathan immediately begged her pardon, and promised to avoid every thing that could displease her. He could not however restrain himself so much as to prevent himself from sighing sometimes, and Mitra having perceived him in this situation, said to him, Do not prevent yourself, my dear husband, from sighing for your first wife and for her children; if you cannot manage it, I am willing to take the trouble of conducting you to them, but I desire that you will determine a time for your departure, and another for your return. Alas! said he, I will do whatever you wish. He protested, he swore, he signed whatever she desired, and gave her a promise drawn up in proper form, which she might keep as an assurance of his word. After this, she invited her principal friends to a magnificent banquet; and towards the end of the feast she said to them, that her husband wished to visit his former wife, and children, which were in the city of N. and she added which of you will have strength and courage sufficient to conduct him there? One of the company answered immediately, that he would willingly undertake the commission, provided that he was allowed twenty years to execute it: another asked only ten years: a third rose up and promised to perform it in one year. But a little hunch back, blind of one eye, who sat at the bottom of the table, offered to carry him there in one day. The lady of the house immediately said to him, to you then I will give the commission, but take take great care not to incommode him in any manner: you must even carry him with delicacy: for this man whom you are to carry is my husband, your lord, and it is proper that you should know he is so much exhausted by his studies of the holy scriptures, that every pain should be spared him. Do not give yourself any trouble, answered the little demon, I will execute with pleasure all your commands.

At the moment of parting, Mitra whispered softly to Nathan, I beseech you, my dear husband, do not irritate this demon in any manner, for he is very passionate, which has been the cause that one of his eyes has been knocked out. Nathan said to her, do

not give yourself any uneasiness about any thing, I assure I will avoid every occasion of irritating him. She then wished him a good journey, and entreated him to remember the promise, which he had given her, and which he had confirmed by his oath. On this the little one-eyed hunch backed demon, placed Nathan on his shoulders with a leg on each side, and by unknown ways carried him to the city where he was to go, and laid him down gently at the end of a bridge over which there was an entrance into the city.

The dawn beginning to illuminate the earth, the demon assumed the figure of a gentleman, and entered the city along with Nathan; they had proceeded but a few steps, when they met a man, who had formerly been the friend of Nathan, who said, are you not that person who being the son of a very rich man exposed yourself to the dangers of the sea, and suffered ship wreck: I am he, said Nathan: the man said immediately I will run and bring the news to your wife, who has lived as a widow for some years, and I will also tell it to your relations. He immediately went off, and he greatly rejoiced all those to whom he related the news. They ran out all together to meet him, to testify the joy they felt for his return, and to learn the particulars of all the adventures which had happened him; Nathan related to them the circumstances which had occurred from the first to the last, and gave them the particulars of all the dangerous events, which he had suffered; and of the manner in which God had always preserved him: he entered into his house along with the demon, who was concealed under a human form. The first thing he did was to embrace his wife and children in presence of all the world, and he caused a solemn feast to be prepared for his relations and friends. Scarcely was the banquet finished, when Nathan asked the demon, who had conducted him by the command of the daughter of Asmodeus, how he happened to be blind of an eye; he replied immediately, it is written exactly in the sacred book of Proverbs, xxi. 23. *He who places a guard on his mouth and his tongue, preserves his soul from many evils.* But tell me Nathan why do you reproach me with my deformity in public; have not your sages said? *He who causes shame to his companion shall be excluded from eternal life.* Nathan did not pay any respect to these words, but continued still to irritate the demon, and asked him also why he was hunch backed. Truely said the demon, that which is written in Proverbs xxvi. 2. applys well to you, *As the dog returns to his vomit, so does the fool return to his folly:* I will however tell you the truth. You have asked me why I am blind of an eye, know that it is because I am too passionate! for in quarrelling with one of my companions he knocked out my eye. And as to what you ask me about my being hunch-backed, know that I cannot tell the reason: but let it pass, and do that which must be done. Nathan prayed him to forgive his impertinent curiosity: Never, said the demon, will I pardon you, it has given me too great an affront. Nathan then commanded his servants to give the demon his dinner, but he answered roughly, I will never eat or drink any thing belonging to you. Order only that some one may recite the prayers which are accustomed to be said at rising from table, and I will immediately depart and return into my own country.

The prayers being finished, the demon said to Nathan, what do you choose that I should say to my mistress, your wife? and what other commission do you give me? Go said he and tell her, that I will never return to her, that she is not my wife, and that I am not her husband. The demon represented to him that he ought not to speak in that manner, and that he should take care not to violate the promise that he had confirmed by his oath. I will pay no regard, said Nathan, either to that promise or to that oath; and, having sent for his first wife, he kissed and embraced her before him, saying, this is my true wife, and I am truly her husband: as for your mistress she is only a sorceress, begot

by demons, tell her I will never return to her.

The little demon seeing the obstinacy of the man, departed at once, full of wrath, and returned to his mistress. She no sooner saw him than she demanded how her lord and husband was, and what he had commissioned him to tell her. The demon answered her, you demand news from me respecting a man, who has not the smallest love for you, who on the contrary hates you, and who has declared haughtily, that he will never return to see you, that you are not his wife, and that he is not your husband. He then related to her all the details of what he had seen, and even the particulars respecting the first wife. The princess Mitra said then, I know not how to believe that what you have said is true; there seems much probability that all he has said was only to irritate you, and put you in a passion; but I, who know him, and who know how learned he is in the Divine Law, and the holy Scriptures, cannot be persuaded that he should break that faith, which he has sworn to me so solemnly; I will wait for the time, when he has promised to return, and then we will consider what is proper to be done.

At length the year which she had granted him, being terminated, she said to the demon her servant, go and bring back to me my lord and husband. Have I not told you, madam, said he, that he had charged me to tell you, that he would not return to you? but said she, at that time the term had not expired, at the end of which he had promised to return. The demon was thus obliged to obey, and departed immediately. He went then to find Seignior Nathan, to whom, after making a profound bow, he presented the respects of his mistress; she has commanded me, said he, to salute you on her part, and has sent me here express to learn the state of your health, and to exhort you to return to her, the time being expired of the promise which you gave her. This put Nathan in a passion, and so he answered him roughly, wretch begone from this, go and tell her that I will never return to her, and that I wish she would not trouble herself about me. The little demon was then obliged to return, and to relate to his mistress the answer of Nathan. Mitra, out of all patience, ran like a madwoman to her father Asmodeus, and related to him the affair as it was; He answered her gravely, perhaps Nathan did not wish to come with a servant so deformed as him you sent, with whom also he had a quarrel, and in reality it is not very honourable for him to come in company with a one-eyed hunchback like this little demon: send to him respectable ambassadors, who may publicly exhort him to remember his oath, and to keep his word: she immediately obeyed him, and chose some of the most honourable among the demons, who having made the journey with incredible diligence, exhorted Nathan to make good his promise, and represented to him the solemnity of the oath with which he had bound himself. Having answered them that he would never return, they said to him, are you not the man, who hitherto has so much studied the holy Scriptures? Why do you violate the faith of your oath? for at length the time which you fixed for your return is expired: beware of what you do, you are sinning against the command of God (in Leviticus, xix. 12) *Thou shalt not take my name in vain, and shalt not swear falsely.* You moreover sin against the commandment (which is in Exodus, xxi. 10). *Thou shalt not diminish her food, nor her raiment, nor your conjugal duty.* Nathan was not in the least moved by this, and only repeated the old story, that he would never return. Wherefore the ambassadors returned to their country and reported exactly to their mistress Mitra. the answer which he had given.

To be Continued.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

FIFTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND

To his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, &c. &c. &c. Lord Lieutenant, general, and general Governor of Ireland.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE,

WE the undersigned, Commissioners appointed for inquiring into